



ROSE Community STEM Fellows

Science Advocate Position Description

You likely know that STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields are some of the fastest-growing and most lucrative fields in today's world. You also may know how personally rewarding it is to work in fields based on discovery and innovation. Today, people of color are significantly underrepresented in most STEM fields. Not only is that limiting to the members of those communities, but these fields also miss out on the benefit of a diversity of ideas and talents. Edgewood College's ROSE Project is dedicated to helping parents from groups typically underrepresented in STEM fields (and their children) access the tools necessary to understand and excel in STEM.

For over twelve years, Edgewood College's Office of Science Outreach has been working with groups of parents from primarily Latino and African American communities to help them better understand the STEM fields, opportunities for their children in these fields, and how to support their children in their STEM learning (even if they do not have a strong science background). Through our ROSE Project (Resources and Opportunities in Science Education) we have worked with hundreds of families through partnerships with area schools and community centers. In order to build capacity within these partner organizations, we launched the ROSE Community STEM Fellows in January 2019.

Teams of three (consisting of a staff member and two parents) represent each partner organization at a series of monthly trainings where they learn how to support STEM learning in their community and gain valuable leadership skills. Their charge will be to organize and facilitate at least one STEM event at their organization in April or May. Our goal is to continue to support "graduates" of the program and train an increasing number of Community STEM Fellows each subsequent year.

However (and this is where you come in), our experience has shown us that many people harbor a good deal of trepidation when approaching STEM topics and content. Given that most of the Fellows will have had little to no formal STEM training, we want to provide some support when it comes to any STEM topics or activities that they might be using as part of their event. What we are looking for is a few people whose comfort level with STEM is not an issue. They will serve as a resource person for one community partner team of Fellows. You may help them identify appropriate activities or vet ones that they propose. You may help connect them to resources (speakers, potential field trip sites such as the Geology or Physics Museums on the

UW campus, places to access materials, etc.) which are readily available in your world but rather foreign to them.

You may provide some explanations for scientific phenomena so that they feel more confident in their understanding of an activity they are sharing with their community, or any number of other ways that you can serve as a bridge between the world of the partner community members and the world of STEM. You become as involved with your Fellows Team and the community they represent as you like. There is a great hunger to understand STEM and many of our partners do not know how to go about gaining access to what seems to them like secret information. We seek to make knowledge of STEM less secret, and we need your help in that work.

If you are interested in becoming a Science Advocate for our Community STEM Fellows Program, read on for a list of specific expectations.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Serve as a STEM resource for a team of three Community STEM Fellows representing a community organization serving families (primarily families of color) in the Madison area.
- Be willing to openly share your knowledge and connections with the STEM Fellows in a way that works to increase awareness and understanding of STEM concepts, opportunities and relevance for families in our community to improve their lives and futures.

Requirements:

- You will be required to attend the *first and the last two training sessions* for the STEM Fellows teams. This is to introduce you to your team and to help you understand the nature of the project and the needs of your community partner, to assist them with planning, and to celebrate their successes at the end of the year.
- Assist your team in the design and implementation of the science event that your Fellows team will conduct in the spring.

Additional Notes:

- You are welcome to attend all of the Fellows training sessions if you like. We would be happy to have your input.
- All materials are provided by the Edgewood College Office of Science Outreach.
- At the end of the year, you receive a stipend of \$100 for every team that you supported throughout the year.

Community STEM Fellows Timeline for 2021-22 School Year: See attached for reference.

Contact Information:

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